Danger of pesticides

@1100. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURI:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in Hindustan Times of 12th October, 1986 on 'danger of pesticides to health' if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(b) whether it is a fact that malarial parasite is back due to present pesticides policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government have seen the news-item, referred to the question.

2. The Government is alive to the danger posed by the wrong uses of pesticides. It is not correct to presume that the use of pesticides in our country is 'uncontrolled' and 'unmonitored'. It is also not wide-spread. The consumtion of pesticide in India, at present, is very low as compared to many other countries. The consumption per hectare per annum in India is only 295 grams, which is nearly half the quantity used in the United States of America, one-thirtieth of the quantity used in Japan and one-fortieth of the quantity used in Hungary and Italy.

3. In India, import/manufacture, sale, transport distribution and use of insecticides with a view to preventing risk to human beings and animals are regulated through the Insecticides Act, 1968, and the Rules framed thereunder. The first step for introduction of an insecticide in the country is to include it in the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, so as to bring it within the purview of the Act. This is done on the recommendation of the Central Insecticides Board. The Board, before recommending the inclusion of an agro-chemical in the Schedule to the Act, considers the merits of each chemical on the basis of information with reference to the chemical identity and physico-chemical properties of the chemical; Bio-efficacy data; the registration status of the chemical in the various countries; detailed information on the mammalian toxicity of the chemical, etc.

4. Any person desiring to import or manufacture an insecticide has to apply to the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act. The Committee registers an insecticide only after satisfying itself as regards the efficacy of the insecticide and its safety to human beings and animals. Such a satisfaction is arrived at by the Committee on the basis of the data on various parameters, such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, residues and toxicity as well as on the fulfilment of the packaging and labelling requirements. The applicant has to generate the prescribed data on the various parameters under different agro-climatic conditions in India and such data are generated by the applicants through Agricultural Universities, ICAR and other Government/recognised Institutions.

5. Because of the constant vigil by the Government and strict scrutiny of the data by the Registration Committee, arising out of the concern of the Government for human health and environmental cleanliness, registration has been refused in case of 19 insecticides, import banned in respect of 2 insecticides, 2 insecticides have been phased out and the use of 2 insecticides restricted. Also, the Registration Committee has registered pesticides like aldicarb, phorate and carbofuron only in encapsulated/granular formulations from the view point of safety of users. Similarly, the registrant of edipheniphos had to voluntarily withdraw the production when the Regis-

@Previously Unstarred Question 266 transferred from the 5th November, 1986.

tration Committee took a serious note of the toxicological problems associated with it.

6. Out of pesticides, mentioned by the organisation, referred to in the Press item, one (2, 4, 5T) is not registrated in India two (Ethyl Parathion, Endrin) have been phased out, import of two (Toxaphene, DBCP) is not permitted while the use of two (Dieldrin, EDB) is restricted for use only by the Government agencies. One other pesticide namely Chlordimeform is not approved for use in the country. Thus unrestricted use of only BHC, Lindane, Chlordane/Heptachlor, Aldrin, Pentachlorophenol, Paraguat and DDT is allowed in the country. However, there has been no demand for Pentachlorophenol for the past few years.

7. The Government have already set up an Expert Committee to review the use of insecticides which are banned/restricted in other countries but which are still being used in India. The reports of the Committee on DDT and BHC have been received. A decision whether to ban the use of these pesticides will be taken after the full examination of the reports. It will be pertinent to point out that factors, like climatic conditions, local studies about residuces, development of insecticide resistance, availability of safer bio-degradeable substitutes etc., which govern the decisions to ban any pesticides differ from country to country.

8. Government is laying great stress on the adoption of safety measures prescribed in the labels and leaf-lets accompanying each container of pesticide. The Government policy is also to advocate judicious and need based use of pesticides. Moreover the Ministry is increasingly emphasising non-chemical and ecologically acceptable methods of pest control including biological methods.

(b) No, Sir. Pesticide policies are directed towards the eradication of mosquitoes which are responsible for the spread of malaria. Pesticides have no effect on the malarial parasite itself hence it cannot be stated that the malarial parasite is back on account of the present pesticide policies.

Juvenile convicts

@1101. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of Juvenile Convicts is increasing day by day in the country and it has gone to a very high extent during the last three years;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Central Government to know the facts of the increasing number of Juvenile convicts, State-wise; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Figures of such children lodged in jails do not indicate any definite trend (Statement annexed) (*See* below).

(b) No specific study has so far been conducted to ascertain the trend.

(c) The Ministry of Welfare has been pursuing with the States for effective implementation of the Children Acts and building up infrastructure so that no children go to jail or remains in jail.

@Previously Unstarred Question 352 transferred from the 6th November, 1986.